

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and 21-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and 21-26 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at pg. 12, line 27 - pg. 13, line 24 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Hyeon during the January 18, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the drawings for failing to show all of the features of the claims. The claims have been amended such that all of the features presently recited are shown in the drawings. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-10 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 have been amended responsive to the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,222,164 (hereinafter "Bass"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bass fails to teach or suggest at least "a system comprising: a device and an apparatus for connecting a transmission line to the device ... the apparatus including: (a) a receptacle for receiving the connector; and (b) a sensor ... the device including: a controller that determines whether a signal indicating availability of the transmission line has been detected, wherein, when the controller determines that the signal indicating availability of the transmission line has not been detected, the controller issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector within the receptacle has been detected by the sensor," (emphasis added) as recited by claim 3.

Bass discloses a plug 12 having an extension 12a such that when the plug 12 is fully inserted into a receptacle member 20, the extension 12a extends through an opening 22 into a cavity 38 such that the extension 12a is disposed between one or more optical emitter/sensor pairs. Bass discloses that the extension 12a will thereby block light emitted from one or more emitters, and as such, the presence/absence and type of a connector can be determined.

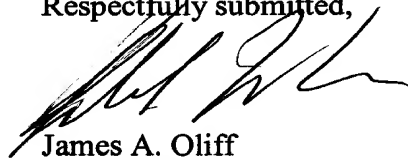
However, Bass fails to teach or suggest a controller that determines whether a signal indicating availability of a transmission line has been detected, and if the signal indicating availability has not been detected, issues an inquiry as to whether the presence of the connector within the receptacle has been detected by the sensor," as recited by claim 3. The controller of claim 3 provides a distinct advantage that the controller only inquires as to the presence of the connector within the receptacle when a signal indicating availability of the transmission line has not been detected.

Therefore, claim 3 is patentable over Bass. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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